Appl. No. : 09/581,651
Filed : October 10, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 9, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 and ending at line 27 with the following paragraph:

MSF may be assessed in bioassays based on its stimulation of adult skin fibroblast migration, for example, as is described in Picardo et al (1991) The Lancet 337, 130-133. In this assay, type I collagen is extracted from rat tail tendons in 3% acetic acid, dialyzed for 2 days against distilled water, and used to make 2 ml collagen gels in 35 mm plastic tissue culture dishes. Collagen gels are overlaid with either 1 ml medium (assay control) or 1 ml of the patient serum fraction. Adult fibroblasts (2×10^5) are plated onto the gel in 1 ml growth medium containing 20% aseptic calf serum; a confluent monolayer is produced immediately after the cells attached and spread on the cell surface (1-2 h after plating). With the 2 ml volume of the collagen gel, this procedure results in a final concentration of 5% calf serum in all cultures (assay control and test) and 25% patient serum fraction in the test cultures; the 1 ml serum fraction used in the assay is diluted about 1/3000 from the original serum sample. Migration data are expressed as the percentage of fibroblasts within the three-dimensional gel matrix after 4 days of incubation, determined by counting of the number of cells on the gel surface and within the collagen matrix in fifteen randomly selected fields by means of a Leitz 'Labovert' microscope. More than 1000 cells are counted for each determination. Specificity for MSF may be inferred by neutralization of migration stimulating activity by anti-MSF polyclonal antibodies (as herein disclosed). MSF may also be assayed using immunological techniques such as ELISA and the like.

At page 47, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 and ending at line 23 with the following paragraph:

The isolated clone was next subjected to restriction digestion (BamHI and KpnI) and the fragments subcloned into ~~pBluescript~~ the *E. Coli* plasmid pBlueScript® and analysed using our 2 PCR approach. Two positive clones were identified: clone B3(2) is 20 kb and can generate both

the 5' and 3' fragments, thereby indicating that it contains the entire MSF genomic sequence. The other clone, K5(5) is 7kb and only contains the 3' unique sequence.